

Watershed Protection Program Fund (WSPF) Project Application – Evaluation Criteria

Watershed Protection Program Fund (WSPF) project applications will be ranked from 0 to 10, with 10 indicating the project application fulfills all of the criteria listed below.

1. NEED FOR THE PROJECT (0-10 points)

- Does the project application adequately describe and quantify the erosion control, water quality, flood control, or other natural resource conservation problem needs to be addressed by the project?
- Is the need sufficient to warrant a project?

2. SUITABILITY OF PROJECT MEASURES (0-10 points)

- Do the proposed project measures address all of the identified water quality, flood control, erosion control, or natural resource conservation problems?
- Are the proposed activities appropriate to address the problem(s)?
- Has the project targeted critical areas or problems?
- Does the project application list specific types and quantities of practices that will be used (i.e., terraces on 800 acres, no-till conservation tillage on 655 acres, etc.)?
- Is the application based on a thorough watershed assessment?
- Does the application prioritize treatment measures?
- Is an adequate information/education component included?

3. BUDGET (0-10 points)

- Is the budget comprehensive, providing information on all anticipated costs, including:
 - * a list of BMPs offered and the cost share available for each BMP or other practice to be implemented, if applicable;
 - * equipment, supplies, travel, salaries/fringe benefits, and indirect costs (if applicable)
 - * costs for information/education products or activities?
 - * costs for such activities as demonstration, monitoring, etc.?
- Are all sources of funding identified, including sources other than Watershed Protection Program Funds?
- Is the budget cost-effective and reasonable considering the work activities being conducted?

4. COMPREHENSIVE WORKPLAN (0-10 points) - Does the project workplan do the following:

- adequately describe the problem(s) being addressed including an identification of all natural resource conservation problems and sources/causes of these problems;
- adequately describe the activities that will be conducted to address the identified erosion control, water quality flood control, or other natural resource conservation problem needs;;
- include a reasonable time schedule and budget;
- are “measures of success” built into the workplan to help quantify results, and
- identify specific parties responsible for carrying out proposed activities?

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5. PARTNERSHIPS (0-10 points) - Does the application demonstrate the following:
 - a willingness of landowners/others to participate in the project,
 - cooperation between state, federal and local agencies;
 - strong local participation by agencies and organizations (i.e., are local agencies and organizations willing to invest time and/or money for project activities)?

6. POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS (0-10 points) - Considering the following, does the project have a good chance of being successful:
 - Is it of manageable size?
 - Are the proposed activities likely to result in erosion control, water quality, flood control, or other natural resource conservation benefits, whether the solutions are direct (i.e., through installation of BMPs) or indirect (i.e., through increased knowledge of NPS pollution and changes in attitudes)?
 - Is the workplan's time schedule realistic?
 - Where appropriate, is there some potential for continuation of activities after the end of the formal project?
 - Does the assessment identify the priority areas and necessary BMPs and are the proposed activities consistent with the assessment and identified BMP needs?